



#12/2  
J. Thomas  
1-3-02

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lee and Esquela  
Serial No.: 09/361,655  
Filed: July 27, 1999  
Title: METHODS OF DETECTING A LIVER DISORDER (Amended)

Art Unit: 1646  
Examiner P. Mertz

RECEIVED  
JAN 02 2001  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Box CPA  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the Request for a Continued Prosecution Application submitted herewith, entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view thereof and of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

<b>CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.10</b>	
"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label Number: <b>EY 016 236 596 US</b>	
Date of Deposit: <b>December 20, 2001</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Box CPA, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
Aldon Griffis (Name of Person Mailing Paper)	
Aldon Griffis (Signature)	December 20, 2001 (Date)

In re Application of  
Lee and Esquela  
Application No.: 09/361,655  
Filed: July 27, 1999  
Page 2

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

A. AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 15 to read as follows:

sub  
f1  
E,  
15. (Thrice amended) A method of detecting a liver cell proliferative disorder,  
comprising  
contacting an antibody that specifically binds to growth differentiation factor-12  
(GDF-12) polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with  
a liver specimen from a subject under conditions suitable for formation of a complex; and  
comparing the amount of complex in the liver specimen to the amount in a control  
sample, wherein a difference is indicative of a liver cell proliferative disorder.